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1/22/77

Dear Bud,

I am now free to talk to another agent on The King Conspiracies, as the enclosed show. In all-around fairness the Zebra explanation cannot be the real one. I also do not believe it is normal to turn down "a very saleable property" because it needs ordinary editing.

The book is polemical. It also is angry in parts. I knew there would be objection, as I also knew it cannot come out any other way. I agreed in advance, without being asked, to both editing and cutting, the sole condition being fidelity to the work - no imposing of foreign doctrines.

Editing is a publishing norm, a normal publishing expense. Rarely is it not a precondition for a commercial success.

What disturbs me is the pretense that the book lacks a solution. I had extensive correspondence on this. You know I knew Zebra would want another McDonald. I was specific on what will follow and that it will lack names only. I was also explicit that while I am still obtaining records - and I am - until there is a contract there is no point in writing what remains to be written. I said that a month after a contract I'd deliverm the balance of the draft.

Time and events have more than justified this decision, which was only common sense anyway.

What I have acquired after writing this makes this a much more important work. I am getting records from more than one source and by more than one means. What it not itemized in my FOIA requests and I did not get in response to them as of now is, far and away, the most important material yet. In the end if it going to be very important to you, too.

I did offer to go to New York to discuss, to explain or tell, to show - anything anybody wanted. No response. This was before and I think again after you spoke to me. You can see from the date that the forcing of the issue was not when I asked it. That was the night of the day we spoke, before Xmas the second time. XX I went even farther. When I had an initial expression of interest from the agent from Zebra I not only wrote and said that I would use it to get a research assistant to speed things up and have someone to catch and cut the phenomics before the draft was retyped. And I made this offer to Kevin Walsh before he got his committee job.

I do not know what goes through these crazy editorial heads or why the agent writes me what he has to know I'll know is false. I do know that I'm going to have the most definitive work of which I know on any subject, including mine of the past. This if I get nothing else of value. There is no standard by which the last part of this book is not going to be a major sensation. We have been through much together. I do not think you have once found that when I said I had something I did not have it. I have it and it is the kind of thing with which you can have a field day, the kind you've dreamed of and not had. Also something of the nature you now have in mind regardless of the future.

The last thing I ever wanted was and remains to publish and ship books. I have yet to have a loser but I do not want to spend my time that way. However, I would hire an editor if I had the money, have the first two parts gone over and start on the third part immediately The potential with attention is fantastic, like nothing we have ever had. I believe the ch anged situation means attention.

Gonzalez has Sprangued a leak, so to speak. The recent anderson column on their great investigations all comes from the published. Mr. X is Vecciano, from Hoch's mag. piece, and the rest, as you should know, comes from WW,WWII and F-U except for the built-in dishonesties to protect the guilty committee and put all on the FBI. Sincerely,